

Center News



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A Newsletter for Federal Child Care Centers

Summer 2005

THE GSA NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF CHILD CARE COORDINATORS

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Highlights from GSA's 16th Annual Child Care Conference

An enthusiastic crowd of over 400 participated in the 16th Annual GSA Child Care Conference held in Seattle, Washington on August 2-4. The welcome reception featured a performance by the Tsimshian HAAYUUK Dance Group. Members are from the Tsimshian Tribe along the northern coast of British Columbia, Canada and Southeast Alaska. Their goal is to spread awareness of the Tsimshian culture. During the opening session, a congratulatory letter from President George Bush was delivered by Sam Hunter, Assistant Commissioner for Applied Science, followed by an engaging presentation by the Flying Fish/ Pike Street Market Consulting Team, "Loving What You Do-Doing What You Love: The Power of Acknowledgement".



Other conference highlights included a presentation by Jennifer Kotler of Sesame Workshop on *Healthy Habits for Life* focusing on instilling healthy eating habits in preschool children, which included a visit from Cookie Monster himself. Barbara Willer, Deputy Executive Director from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), helped recognize 16 GSA child care centers for their success in achieving accreditation and reaccreditation by NAEYC this year. Some highlights of the breakout sessions included: Child Care Program Issues and the ADA, Social Emotional Development and School Readiness, 52 Ways to Recruit and Reward a Dynamic Board, facility tours of three downtown Seattle child care centers, a Facilities Round Table Discussion, and The True Cost of Quality Care: Budget Development and Financial Planning. For the first time, participants at this year's conference were able to receive college and continuing education credits (CEU's) from Portland State University. Twenty-six participants earned credits: four undergraduate level, six graduate level and 13 earned CEU's.

Contract Security Officer Saves Day for Three-Year-Old in Southeast Sunbelt Region

On July 15, Officer Kenneth Harris, Contract Security Officer with Security Consultants Group of Knoxville, Tennessee, saved the day when a three-year-old child was accidentally locked in her grandfather's car after being picked up at the Little Acorns Child Care Center in Jackson, Mississippi. Due to the extremely high temperature, Officer Harris took charge of the situation rather than waiting for a family member to bring a second set of keys from home. Officer Harris coaxed the three-year-old to unbuckle herself from her car seat, climb over the front seat, and unlock the car door.



Congratulations Cornerstone Winners!

Northwest Arctic Region Assistant Regional Administrator Robin Graf presented this year's Cornerstone Awards which are given in recognition of the contributions of PBS and GSA employees and well as FPS and others outside of GSA who provide continual and exceptional support and service to the child care program. This year's winners are: Brian Fuller, Building Management Specialist, New England Region for his outstanding customer service in support of the Y's Time Child Care Center in St. Alban's, VT; Donald Kottl, Lead Project Manager, Joan Grennan, Property Manager, Toni Clark, Contracting Officer, and Coreen Pounds, Contract Specialist, Northeast and Caribbean Region for their work on the Syracuse Child Care Center renovation project; Nancy Sebastiano-Woloszyn and Dee Turino, Space Planners, Mid-Atlantic Region for their work in creating safe, stimulating environments for the children; Joani Isles, Interior Designer, Southeast Sunbelt Region for her initiative in forming the Regional Child Care Construction Team; Dan Sexton, Former Director Kansas City South Office, Larry Harkrader, Acting Director Kansas City South Office, Teresa Vondrak-Doty, Property Manager, Heartland Region for their work on the successful transformation of the Bannister Child Care Center, one of the oldest child care centers in the Heartland Region; Randy Florent, Deputy District Counsel U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Greater Southwest Region for his instrumental role in the development and ongoing success of Castle Kids Child Development Center; Eric Berger, Project Manager, Rocky Mountain Region for his work on several construction and renovation projects in the Denver Federal Center; Derek Lynch, Building Services Technician, Pacific Rim Region for his contribution to the successful completion of a three phase renovation project at the Ziggurat Child Development Center; Darrell Dickerson, Realty Specialist, Northwest Arctic Region for his everyday efforts in support of the child care centers in the Seattle area, and Burl Keller, Supervisory Safety and Health Specialist, National Capital Region for his role in ensuring the health and safety of the children at the region's first collaboration between the federal and local government and community members. In addition, a Cornerstone Award was presented to Kevin Kelly for his outstanding contributions to the program as a whole during his tenure as the Architect for the Office of Child Care.



Ania's Angle

Being Stuck

Do you feel stuck? Sometimes it feels that way as we slug our way through the workdays of late summer. You will be surprised how quickly this can change by doing a few energy adjustments in the room or just in your space at work AND at home. Things that have not been moved in awhile, give them a tweak. Clean up your clutter, move a few things around, rearrange your desk and chair, and really look at your surroundings to get a new perspective. Drive to work tomorrow a different direction than normal, eat a new kind of food, if you always read novels, try non-fiction. At lunch go to an Art Gallery or take a walk to buy fresh flowers and put them on your desk or staff area. I have found everything that stays healthy and alive is in movement and changing every present moment, for our environment is always affecting us. So try a new look at whatever you are doing in your "cubicle" or center. Life is an adventure if you move beyond your routine.

NAEYC NEWS

Alert! Alert! Alert!

On September 16, 2006 the new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Accreditation System will be fully operational. The recently approved NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Performance Criteria will be effective for all currently accredited programs as well as programs seeking accreditation by NAEYC.

Although there are over 400 new performance criteria under the new system, programs will not need to meet every one. Programs **will** have to meet all 10 new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. To meet a standard a program must successfully satisfy at least 80% of the accreditation criteria connected to that standard. There are several criteria that are **required**. To begin preparing for accreditation under the new system review the criteria to see how they have changed and to determine what your program needs to do to meet the 10 new program standards. The complete set of criteria are available online at www.naeyc.org/accreditation/next_era.asp.

Moving to the Future System of NAEYC Transitional Procedures

Programs that are **not currently accredited** and ordered materials between Jan. 1, 2004 and June 1, 2005 need to submit:

- * Notification of Intent Form no later than July 1, 2005 **and**
- * Their completed *Early Childhood Program Description* no later than Oct 1, 2005.

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Conference Highlights



Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 85% are now accredited.

Congratulations to the following centers on their recent accreditation:

*BSC Kids Place, Holtsville, NY

Managed by Imagine Early Learning Centers

*Columbia Federal Child Development Center, Columbia, South Carolina

Managed By Vital Connections

Congratulations to the following center on their recent re-accreditation:

*Little Eagles in Martinsburg, WV



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Programs that are **currently accredited** with an expiration:

- * on or before December 31, 2005 must submit their *Early Childhood Program Description* at least 90 days prior to expiration to avoid a lapse in accredited status.
- * between Jan. 1, 2006 - June 30, 2006 must wait to apply for reaccreditation using NAEYC's new program standards. These programs will receive a 12-month extension of their accreditation status. **These program will be required to submit an annual report on the anniversary of their expiration however there will be no fee for this report.**
- * between July 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006 must wait to apply using NAEYC's new program standards. These programs will receive a 6-month extension.
- * on or after Jan. 1, 2007 must wait to apply using NAEYC's new program standards.

A complete timeline of Transitional Procedures is also available at:

www.naeyc.org/accreditation/trans_proc.asp.

Eileen Stern Receives Commendable Service Award



Eileen Stern, Director, Office of Child Care, was presented the Commissioner's Commendable Service Award at this year's conference. Sam Hunter, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Applied Science presented Eileen with this award on behalf of former Commissioner F. Joseph Moravec. Eileen is currently responsible for all PBS initiatives related to the child care program as well as planning, managing and directing a geographically dispersed virtual work force; collaborating with regional program representatives in a joint effort to provide high quality child care for Federal and community families using child care centers in GSA controlled facilities. She oversees the operations of 113 child care centers nationwide serving 8,000 children. Ms. Stern is also an influential partner among both Government and private sector Child Care leaders and providers often being called upon for her expertise and counsel. More importantly she is the heart and soul of the GSA child care program. On top of this, she is a strong, pragmatic manager, well respected by the private sector and the Federal family.

Eileen was presented with a lovely crystal plaque and a letter from Mr. Moravec. In the letter he stated: "Eileen Stern is a great public servant and one of the most effective managers I've ever known. She puts our customers--the children and their families--first. She spends the taxpayers' money like it was her own. She executes very well. And she doesn't compromise in choosing her teammates. The result is one of the strongest, highest quality programs being offered under the GSA brand name. Like a mother lion, she is ferocious and irresistible in defense of her domain. I honor her for her commitment to providing a superior workplace for the federal worker, which she has defined, once and forever, as a workplace that includes superior on-site childcare." Congratulations Eileen!

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(For additional copies call 415-522-3472)

Contributions and Comments on Center News are welcome and encouraged.

Parents and center staff are encouraged to check the following website regularly: www.recalls.gov